

Sports

THE SCOUT

DECEMBER 23, 2003

SECTION C

2003 YEAR IN REVIEW

The layer of fog was intense Jan. 13 at the 11 Area football field during a memorable game — later dubbed The Fog Bowl — between Marine Aircraft Group 39 and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

What a trip

Marines worked hard, played hard during 2003

STORY AND DESIGN
BY RICHARDSON MIRON

It came and it went. The 2003 intramural sports year was over before it seemed to begin. The old saying, "time flies when you're having fun," couldn't have been more accurate.

When Marines and sailors weren't focused on their No. 1 priority — serving this great nation — they managed to make time for some fierce athletic competition.

More than 1,000 athletes diverted their attention briefly from Operation Iraqi Freedom, long enough to participate in every sport imaginable. The events ranged from the unforgettable Fog Bowl to the 10th annual World Famous Mud Run to the Commanding General's Cup Horseshoes Challenge. Whether it was on the basketball court, the softball diamond or the football gridiron, the play was intense here at Camp Pendleton.

And The Scout was there to soak up all the details and relay them back to you. Here's a month-by-month look at what transpired during the 2003 calendar year.

Enjoy on pages 1, 2 and 3.

JANUARY

1/13. Jim Shepard and Richard Mohney are the best of friends. But on Jan. 13, their friendship went out the window for one of the most memorable intramural tackle-football games ever played here at Pendleton. It will forever be known as The Fog Bowl.

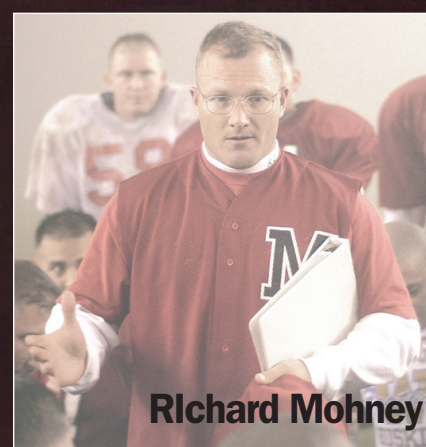
Shepard's Marine Aircraft Group-39 Mad Dawgs overcame an intense layer of haze, which covered the 11 Area field, to defeat Mohney's Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Jaguars 28-7.

The game was also unforgettable because of the pregame hype — both coaches wanted this showdown badly — and because it was Pendleton football icon Mohney's final coaching performance here on base.

1/23. Mad Dawgs 37-year-old quarterback/coach Shepard, who was just 10 days removed from beating his good friend Mohney in The Fog Bowl, made his final appearance as a player by leading his squad to a dramatic — and controversial — victory against the 11th Marine Regiment Cannon Cockers in the 2002-2003 All-Base Championship.

Shepard's sneaky snap call at the line of scrimmage freed up tight end Kristopher Wandall for a 37-yard touchdown pass, giving MAG its first of what would be back-to-back football championships. The win improved the Mad Dawgs' record to 10-1 — including a December 2002 victory against Marine Corps Kaneohe Bay Hawaii in the Best of the West championship — and marked the beginning of their dominance against the Cannon Cockers.

1/28. MAG's Marcus Lambert breezed through the Table Tennis Challenge, defeating the School of Infantry's Manuel Apalacio, 21-7, 21-10, to garner his third pingpong title while serving in the Marine Corps.



Richard Mohney



Martin Hagan

FEBRUARY

2/7. Mad Dawgs running back Martin Hagan was awarded the first-ever Mike Anderson Player of the Year Award for his dominating performance during the 2002-2003 football season.

2/14. It's announced the World Famous Mud Run will be expanded to a two-day event on June 14-15 to accommodate the enormous interest in the 6.2-mile jaunt through Pendleton's beautiful rolling hills.

2/14. Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base rallied from a 179-pin deficit to defeat Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division in the All-Base Bowling Challenge at Devil Dog Lanes. The five-man team rolled its way to an impressive 2,541-2,497 victory for its third consecutive title.

2/20. Volleyball standout David Ortiz led Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity to the All-Base volleyball championship.

INSIDE SPORTS

ALL-MARINE CHESS

■ The Headquarters Marine Corps Semper Paratus Branch will host an A-M Chess Team Qualifier April 25 at MCB Quantico, Va. **Page C-3.**

BUDDY BOWL

■ Paralyzed athlete's presence underscores purpose of flag-football fund-raiser held at the 11 Area field on Saturday. **Page C-4.**

YOUTH SPORTS

■ Youth sports director Richard Smith talks about how 2003 went and gives his outlook for the upcoming year. **Page C-5.**

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2003 YEAR IN REVIEW

MARCH

3/8. A civilian named Mike Morrill, who resides in San Clemente, takes claim of the CG's Cup Bicycle Road Race. Morrill finished the 30-mile bike ride in 1 hour, 8 minutes, 54 seconds.

3/10. SOI's Craig Forrester leads his unit to the Skeet Challenge title. Forrester needed to drill 34 discs as the final competitor to top MAG's squad. Forrester was up to the challenge as he smoked 37.

3/13. Eleventh Marine Expeditionary Unit's Fred Riano rolls an 855 series, topping Devil Dog Lanes' previous highest sanctioned series by 57 pins. Making the performance even more impressive was the fact Riano's career day came at the All-Marine Bowling Championships, which Pendleton hosted.

3/17. Just a few minutes after President Bush gave Saddam Hussein a 24-hour ultimatum to leave Iraq, the CG's intramural basketball season opener tipped off. The softball season started up the following day.

APRIL

4/4. For the second year in a row, Assault Amphibian School Battalion's track and field team, led by Anthony Bruce, topped MAG-39 in capturing the All-Base track and field title. However, the event's most impressive performance came from RSU's Felton Turnage, who won the men's masters' 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes. Turnage proved he can still run with the young guns, too, when he dropped jaws by passing five competitors on the final lap of the 1,600-meter relay.

4/8. First Medical Battalion continued its hot streak on the softball diamond by improving to 6-0 on the season with a 20-10 thumping of Reserve Support Unit. The squad's coach, Reggie Piper, doubted whether his team would be able to finish the season because of an upcoming combined arms exercise.

4/28. There comes a point during every season when a front-runner is forced to prove its legitimacy. That point came during this "hell week" for Hq&Spt., MCB's basketball team. The unit, which had breezed to a 9-0 record in early season action, was going to be tested on April 28 and on May 1 in games against the league's other top two teams: Combat Service Support Group 14 and Security Battalion.

And it passed with flying colors.

Thanks to the exceptional play of its guard tandem of Dushaun Fields and Willie Nathan, Hq&Spt. rattled off back-to-back victories against CSSG-14 and Security. There would be no doubt from that point which team was the favorite to win the crown.

MAY

5/1. Naval Hospital's Jorge Dionicio denied himself a significant feat in softball: hitting for the cycle.

Needing a single, Dionicio stretched a base hit into a double and finished the contest with four extra-base hits. Dionicio could live with that performance, but his team still fell 19-11 to 9th Communication Battalion.

5/9. The celebration started early for Heidi McKenna on her 33rd birthday. The MCTSSA athlete took home six trophies, including several against the men, at the CG's Cup Swim Meet Challenge.

5/11. In one of the most lopsided victories of the softball season, MCTSSA whipped Maintenance Battalion 31-4.

5/15. Steve Perry spearheaded Hq&Spt.'s runaway title defense at the CG's Cup Golf Championships. Perry took the singles championship by shooting a tournament-low score of 69 on the second day, for a one stroke victory over I Marine Expeditionary Force's Tim Musgraves.

JUNE

6/2. Lord Stanley's Cup stopped at Pendleton while the New Jersey Devils and Anaheim Mighty Ducks duled over it in the NHL Finals. Hundreds of ice hockey fans came to look at the century-old treasure.

6/4. MCTSSA's volleyball standout Ortiz always admired Pendleton volleyball legend Tom Loftis. But the 25-year-old Ortiz proved he belongs in the same breath of elite players when his MCTSSA squad outlasted the 35-year-old Loftis' 9th Comm. at the CG's Cup Four-Player Beach Volleyball Tournament.

6/14. Team Marines driver Hamilton won for the second time in two years when he captured the Busch Series event at Kentucky Motor Speedway.

6/14. More than 7,000 competitors turned out for the 10th annual World Famous Mud Run, which was expanded into a two-day event because of its out-of-control popularity. A civilian from Rancho Santa Margarita was the first athlete to cross the finish line. The 29-year-old triathlete needed just 43:58.8 to finish the sloppy 6.2-mile run.

6/23. Medical Bn. dismantled Hq&Spt. Bn., 8-3, in the All-Base softball championship game. The remarkable season by Med. Bn. almost never came to fruition because it nearly had to forfeit from the regular season because a chunk of its starting players had to miss an extended period of time because of duty commitments. But the unit scrapped for replacement players and went on to win the title.

6/26. Hq&Spt. went a remarkable 22-0 during the 2003 basketball season. The final victory came in dominating fashion in the All-Base finals against I MEF. Some said the perfect season should have an asterisk because of the war, that the 22-0 record wasn't a completely accurate reflection of the team's ability compared with the rest of the league.

"We went undefeated, and I'm going to tell you what, I don't think the war had anything to do with it," Hq&Spt. coach Stephen Ziegler said.

Hq&Spt.'s Fields was named the league's MVP for his dominating play at the point guard position.

6/30. Fenton Field became a field of dreams for hundreds of baseball fans. The good times were due to several Los Angeles Dodgers, including Odalis Perez and Dave Roberts, and San Diego Padres closer Trevor Hoffman appearing at a free baseball clinic and autograph session. The Single Marine Program organized the event.



Darnell Johnson



Felton Turnage



Dushaun Fields



10th Annual Mud Run



Jim Shepard

JULY

7/2. The final flurry of action left those in attendance at the All-Base flag football championship in shock. When it was over, Reserve Support Unit had shocked Hq&Spt., 21-16, to capture the title.

Clinging to a 16-15 lead, with just enough time for one snap remaining, Hq&Spt. was just a single defensive stop away from the title. It looked secure when RSU signal caller Jerry Gonzalez failed to find an open receiver. But the Gladiators' best player, Donovan Palmer, was flagged for roughing the passer and the penalty gave RSU one more shot. This time, Gonzalez connected with unlikely hero Roger Sanchez in the end zone for the game-winning touchdown.

7/7. Third Assault Amphibian Battalion's Eddie Bolanos won his third consecutive Division 1 CG's Cup Racquetball Challenge by topping 9th Comm.'s John Garcia 15-6, 15-6 in the finals.

7/12. Team Marines driver Hamilton won for the second time on the season at the Tropicana Twister 300, leaving Hamilton seventh in the point standings.

7/17. SOI captured its seventh consecutive Division 2 CG's Cup championship for the first half of the 2003 season. MAG-39 took the Division 1 title and MCTSSA garnered the Division 3 title.

7/23. Consisting mostly of the same group that went 22-0 during the regular season, Marine Corps Base stayed perfect at the West Coast Regionals Basketball Championships, where the squad easily captured the round-robin tournament, topping 1st Force Service Support Group, Yuma, Twentynine Palms and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Camp Pendleton's Dushaun Fields and Willie Nathan were chosen to fly to Camp Lejeune, N.C., to try out for the All-Marine Basketball Team after their outstanding performance at the West Coast Regionals. Both players made the final cut and made the All-Marine team.

AUGUST

8/4. The School of Infantry shut out MCTSSA 13-0 in the tackle-football season opener. The 11th Marine Regiment also won on the league's opening night, 18-6, over Security.

8/7. Eleventh Marine Expeditionary Unit improved to 6-0 in intramural soccer competition by defeating Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, 2-1 at the league's midway point.

8/11. The Hq&Spt. duo of Skylar Graybill and Wilson Leech defeated MCTSSA's Tim Hathaway and Mark Davis to capture the CG's Cup Badminton Challenge. SOI's Billot and Smock took the women's crown.

8/27. Just returned from the All-Armed Forces Basketball Championship at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Willie Nathan and Dushaun Fields teamed with Amin Muhammed to capture the CG's Cup 3-on-3 Basketball Challenge against the 11th Marines' David White, Nickalus Burke and Greylin Myers.

Fields would soon be off again — in November — to Milan, Italy, to compete in the International Council of Military Sports (CISM) World Games.

After averaging 15 points per game on the All-Marine team, Fields was chosen to represent the United States of America on the elite All-Armed Forces squad. Fields helped the USA take eighth place out of 14 teams. Italy took first place and Russia finished second at the highly competitive tournament, which concluded in December.

SEPTEMBER

9/4. The 11th Marines wanted this matchup badly. But just like the previous two, they couldn't have it as Hq&Spt., MCB/MAG defeated the Cannon Cockers 12-7. The game was the 11th Marines first crack at the Mad Dawgs, who defeated them in the previous season's championship game.

9/4. MAG-39's Mike Pyland and Shane Studer won the CG's Cup Two-Person Volleyball Challenge, defeating 9th Comm.'s George Moleni and Richard Jackson 27-25 in the finals.

9/8. Nobody on the 11th Marines had a chance to lick his wounds. So they all decided to lick the competition. Just four days after suffering a heart-wrenching defeat to the Mad Dawgs, the Cannon Cockers stepped up against their second- biggest rival, SOI. The Cannon Cockers won this showdown, 14-0, sending the Rough Ryders into the playoffs out of sync.

9/16. At the time, it looked like a huge upset when HqBn. dominated H&S 24-0 in a playoff warm-up at the 11 Area field. It turned out that HqBn. was indeed just warming up. The squad went on to play a major factor in the playoffs. The same wouldn't be said for the Outlaws.

9/18. Electronic Maintenance Company's Jeremy Quinton and Jonathan Pritchett won the CG's Cup Sailing Regatta Challenge at the Del Mar Marina.

9/21. Two Camp Pendleton-based sailors, Janeen Hughes (Navy dentist) and Carlo Mabini (a corpsman), each rode off with a pair of first-place ribbons in the English Saddle division at the Chaps 'n Breeches semiannual Open Horse Show.

9/23. The San Diego Padres dedicated a new Little League field they refurbished here on base. The new field, called Camp Pendleton Little Padres Park, was formerly known as Wire Mountain Little League Field, near the Wire Mountain housing area. It will be ready for play in 2004.

9/25. A 60-yard kick by 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion's Travis Johnson sailed past 11th MEU's goalie Felix Ortega to break a scoreless tie and give 1st LAR the 2003 CG's Cup soccer championship. The victory gave 1st LAR its first-ever CG's Cup championship in any sport.

9/26. Ninth Comm.'s Donald Shankles dominated the Strongest Warrior Competition. Shankle placed first or second in every event except the Tire Flip.



2003 YEAR IN REVIEW

OCTOBER

10/1. MAG threesome of William Downing, Cesar Swalm and Jim Shepard wrote their names in the record books as the first-ever winners of the CG's Cup Over-the-Line Challenge at Del Mar Beach.

10/1. The tackle football playoffs kicked off the week of Oct. 1-6. H&S pulled off a 12-6 victory over MCTSSA, thanks to the hard running of Tim Armstrong, who rambled off 231 yards in the victory. On defense, HqBn. shut out SOI, and on offense, Bolo Cavanh delivered a 23-yard field goal to advance underdog HqBn. into the second round. And Shepard's Hq&Spt., MCB/MAG had little trouble with the Security Bn. Titans in its 28-6 victory.

10/8. Tavares Bush defeated Tarkeaton Jones, both of whom are from MAG, in the Division 1 CG's Cup Horseshoes Challenge. Bush then went on to defeat D2 champion David Findlay for the All-Base crown.

10/8. The 11th Marine Cannon Cockers showed why they were the most dominating football program during the regular season, with a flat-out smashing of the H&S Outlaws in the second round of the tackle-football playoffs. Quarterback Stephen Phelps led four scoring drives as the Cannon Cockers stomped on the Outlaws 34-6 at the 11 Area field. The victory paved the Cannon Cockers' way into the championship, where they got what they dearly wanted: A chance to redeem themselves against the Mad Dawgs.

10/9. FSSG defeated Marine Recruit Depot San Diego San Diego — which was playing on its home turf — 4-1 in the West Coast Regional Soccer finals. The undefeated run marked a quantum leap forward compared with the previous year, when the squad finished in last place.

10/15. It was supposed to be a blowout. It turned into a classic, triple-overtime showdown, in which the heavily favored Mad Dawgs barely edged HqBn., 12-6, in a tackle-football semifinal, for the right to defend their title against the Cannon Cockers.

10/22. One kicked ball trickling over the crossbar unleashed a flood of emotion. For the Mad Dawgs, it meant an ice-cold one for everybody. For the 11th Marines, it was merely an icy cold chill. Rick Bates' 41-yard field goal with 4.5 seconds left gave the Mad Dawgs an 11-8 victory over the Cannon Cockers. The victory marked the Mad Dawgs' fourth straight victory against their biggest rival.



NOVEMBER

11/11. Former Marine and current Denver Broncos star Mike Anderson tested positive for marijuana and was suspended by the NFL for four games for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

11/13. Two Hq&Spt., MCB/MAG standouts, Gary "Big Country" Crosswhite and Brister Packer, were selected as 2003 Co-Players of the Year. Packer recorded more than 20 sacks from his rush end position and Crosswhite was the heart and soul of the Mad Dawgs' championship winning squad. Mad Dawgs' retiring coach Jim Shepard was awarded the Coach of the Year Award.

11/15. A Los Angeles elementary school teacher named Larry Gessler taught the competition a lesson in cross-country running by winning the 2003 season-ending Camp Pendleton Race Series 10K event with a time of 38:47.

11/19. Fourth Marine Regiment's Zach Rhodes showed why he's one of the baddest dudes on base by lifting 490 pounds, taking the CG's Cup Bench Press Challenge.

11/25. The Mad Dawgs dominated Twentynine Palms 21-0 in the desert in a de facto Best of the West exhibition. Shepard's team was extremely fired up, because it felt snubbed for not being invited to Hawaii to play the island squad, which decided to host Twentynine Palms instead.

DECEMBER

12/5. Perry Hill led I MEF to the Trap Shooting Challenge title. The squad bested bested second-place Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon's team Hq&Spt., MCB unit by 10 days.

12/11. It was great while it lasted, but the good times came to an end for the School of Infantry during the second half of the 2003 CG's Cup schedule, which culminated Dec. 4 with the conclusion of the Trap Shooting Challenge.

SOI had won the Division 2 CG's Cup crown seven consecutive times, but the streak was snapped by I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group. In Division 1, MAG claimed the big prize for the second-consecutive half, knocking off 9th Comm. The Division 3 title went to MCTSSA, which held off a late charge by AAS Bn., and the women's title went to SOI.

12/18. It was announced that All-Marine volleyball and rugby player George Moleni and women's basketball and bowling standout Cassandra Best were named the 2003 Pendleton Athletes of the Year.

Resumes for A-M Chess Team

MARINE CORPS NEWS SERVICE

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — The Headquarters Marine Corps Semper Fit Branch will host an All-Marine Chess Team Qualifier April 25 to May 1, 2004, at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

The top six individual finishers from the tournament will represent the Corps as the All-Marine Chess Team and advance to the Armed Forces Chess Championships.

The Air Force will host the Armed Forces meet June 20-26, 2004, at Keesler AFB, in Biloxi, Miss. The top three overall individual finishers (regardless of service), followed by the next-highest representative from each service (four total), will make up the U.S. Military NATO Chess Team.

The U.S. Military NATO Chess Team will consist of six players and a team captain and will represent the United States in the International Military Chess Tournament in Rijswijk, Netherlands, Aug. 8-13, 2004. The team captain will participate as a player on a combined NATO team.

Marines interested in participating in the All-Marine Chess Team Qualifier must submit resumes no later than Jan. 8, 2004. Twelve qualified participants are required for qualifier competition to take place.

If more than 12 resumes are received, selection for qualifier will be based on United States Chess Federation rating and the last two years of competition. If fewer than 12 resumes are received, selection for the All-Marine Chess Team will be based on resume submissions.

Chess resumes are available on the Marine Corps Community Services Web site at www.usmc-mccs.org, under Semper Fit, Chess, or

may be picked up from your local Semper Fit Office. Resumes must include the USCF membership card identification number and state of registration, USCF rating, date of rating and record of significant chess activity during the past two years (provide date, place, event and standing).

Nominees must hold a valid USCF membership available at any USCF-rated tournament. Rating and local tournament information are available online at www.uschess.org.

Packages must contain command endorsement stating that the Marine will be available to attend all events if selected, and should be sent through the local MCCS Semper Fit Office for coordination.

Resumes should be forwarded to: Commandant of the Marine Corps (MRS), ATTN: Robin Keaton, 3280 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134 or via fax: (703) 784-9822 or DSN 278-9822. E-mail address: All-MarineChess@usmc-mccs.org.

For more information, call Robin Keaton, recreation program analyst, (703) 784-9542 or varsity sports coordinator Chris Crawford at (760) 763-1636.

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Buddy Bowl: Charity wins out over chores

■ Paralyzed athlete’s presence underscores purpose of flag-football fund-raiser

JOHN RAIFSNIDER
SPORTS EDITOR

Although most of the more than 180 men competing in this year’s charity Buddy Bowl probably wouldn’t admit it, some of them played in Saturday’s flag football tourney here at the 11 Area soccer fields to avoid a day of “Honey-dos” at home.

The annual event, now in its 27th year, raises money for the families of servicemembers and law enforcement personnel killed or injured in the line of duty. One of the beneficiaries of this year’s tournament was Marine Sgt. Jason Wittling of Camp Pendleton. Wittling was injured in a vehicle accident during Operation Iraqi Freedom and is now a quadriplegic.

During opening ceremonies for Buddy Bowl XXVII, Wittling, of Ashland, Wis., and a member of the Challenged Athletes Foundation, was presented with a handcycle by Marine Capt. Nico Marcolongo, the president of Buddy Bowl, Inc., and the event organizer.

On the field, four of the 16 teams entered competed for the coveted “Lombuddy Trophy,” given to the tourney’s top team in the Buddy bracket for players in the 30-plus age group.

A group of San Diego county district attorneys, “The Prosecutors,” won the Buddy bracket.

Twelve teams competed in the open bracket. Carsforyou.com, last year’s runner-up and the 2001 tournament champion, reclaimed bragging rights as Buddy Bowl champs by beating The Barons, a South Bay team, 22-18 in the tourney finale.

“I’m old and I have little kids, so if I can come up here and play and get out of doing things around the house, I’m going to do it every chance I get,” said Brian Willoughby,



Marine Sgt. Jason Wittling of 1st Combat Engineer Battalion (center) is presented with a football by Capt. Nico Marcolongo (right) during opening ceremonies at Buddy Bowl XXVII here Saturday. Buddy Bowl players autographed the ball. At left is Brian Lord, a former Camp Pendleton Marine and Wittling’s best friend.

JOHN RAIFSNIDER

captain of the Carsforyou.com team.

“Really, though, we know that playing here goes for a good cause,” said Willoughby, 38, of Del Mar. “We know that there are a lot more important things going on than football during the holiday season, but if we can come out here and play and help support somebody and have a good time, we’re going to do it. It made it more special that (Wittling) was out on the field to receive that handcycle; it kind of fires you up a little bit to see the actual person here who is benefiting from this tournament.”

Buddy Bowl XXVII drew 16 teams in three divisions — more than 180 athletes — from all around Southern California.

Three members of one team, the Mongo Maniacs, flew down from the Bay Area to take part.

The top three teams were awarded trophies; the last feted was

Willoughby’s squad, just as rain began to fall on the closing ceremonies.

“This was a great day, despite having a little rain. We all love football and this was another great day for that, but this is really all for the cause,” said Marcolongo, a La Jolla native.

“We’re playing for a purpose, and that really means something to all of us here today, but to have Jason here and to put a face on the effort, that means a lot to the players,” added Marcolongo, who has headed the organization for the past seven years.”

Marcolongo said Wittling’s presence added meaning to the day’s competition.

“What we’re doing here is all about charity, and sometimes you don’t get to see where your efforts are going. With Jason here to receive his handcycle, the guys that were our here today sweating and pulling muscles got a chance to see where their efforts were going. Jason’s being here put a face on the contributions their making.”

For Wittling, the handcycle offers a means to maintain his health while rehabilitating from his war injuries.

“This Buddy Bowl organization and the Challenged Athletes Foundation, they’re really helping me out a lot, and other people in my situation,” Wittling said after receiving his handcycle.

“It gives people like me an opportunity to do another type of activity — it gives me options — instead of just sitting around.”

The gift will keep Wittling from having to sideline his own athletic inclinations.

“The bike itself is just awesome, and it offers me a chance to build up my upper body and to stay in some reasonable shape,” said Wittling, a former distance runner who plans to participate in the California Half-Ironman here in April.

“Right now, I plan on using the bike to do the running portion of the course — that’s what (race officials) will allow — so I plan on being a part of that triathlon.”

N.C. Transit District offering bus service to Holiday Bowl

■ Several options for fans of college football game at “Q”

College football fans in North County can attend the 2003 Holiday Bowl on Dec. 30 at Qualcomm Stadium via North County Transit District Breeze Express Buses.

The game will feature the Washington State Cougars vs. the University of Texas Longhorns.

Kickoff is at 5 p.m.

Pickup points are offered along the I-5 and I-15 corridors.

Round-trip fares are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and younger.

One-way tickets are \$3.

Monthly passes are not valid for this special service and exact fare is required, as coach operators will not be

able to make change.

The schedule for the buses is as follows:

Coastal route
(Interstate 5 Corridor)

■ Departure from the Oceanside Transit Center (Tremont Street, between Michigan and Mission avenues) at 2:15 p.m.

Arrive at stadium at 4 p.m.

■ Westfield Shoppingtown Plaza Camino Real (West of Sears, Carlsbad) at 2:30 p.m.

Arrive at the stadium at 4 p.m.

La Costa Park & Ride
■ (Interstate 5 and La Costa Ave., Carlsbad) at 2:50 p.m.

Arrive at the stadium at 4 p.m.

Birmingham Park & Ride
■ (I-5 and Birmingham Avenue, Encinitas) at 3:05 p.m.

Arrive at the stadium 3:50 p.m.

Inland route
■ (Interstate 15 Corridor)

Departure from Escondido Transit Center (Valley Parkway and Quince Street) at 3 p.m. Arrive at stadium 4 p.m.

■ Felicita Plaza (Felicita Avenue and Escondido Boulevard, Escondido) at 3:15 p.m.

Arrive at stadium 4 p.m.

■ Beethoven Park & Ride
(On Beethoven northeast of North County Fair, Escondido) at 3:25 p.m. Arrive at Stadium 4 p.m.

The last buses for both the I-5 and I-15 corridors will depart Qualcomm 20 minutes after postgame festivities.

The Coaster has trains for people who want to see the floats, bands and other attractions of the Holiday Bowl Parade in downtown San Diego.

Regularly scheduled trains depart the Oceanside Transit Center beginning at

7:15, 7:40 and 9 a.m., and arrive at Santa Fe Depot downtown at 8:13, 8:38 and 9:59 a.m., respectively.

Parade-goers can then walk west on Broadway to the parade route along the Bayfront.

Following the parade, return Coasters leave Santa Fe Depot at 12:45 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Six other trains leave at

various times from 3:40 to 6:45 p.m.

For more information on NCTD’s Holiday Bowl Express Bus or the COASTER, call toll-free (800) COMMUTE (800) 266-6883 or for hearing-impaired assistance call (888) 722-4889 (TTY/TDD).

Log on to www.sdcommute.com for online service schedules.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

“Hoping the guys would invite me to play... and they did!”

This picture is from the 1960’s at an FCA Camp in Black Mountain, North Carolina, of four-year-old David Dean who is now a college coach influencing young people as he was influenced.

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Youth Sports’ goal for 2004 same as always: Fun for kids

■ Youth sports director talks about 2003, gives outlook for upcoming year

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If the 2004 season turns out anything like 2003, Richard Smith will be a happy man.

The youth sports director has big aspirations for the upcoming year. Like always, those aspirations are centered on keeping Camp Pendleton’s children’s minds and bodies busy while participating in recreational sports.

That simple and important task wasn’t easy in 2003, but when Smith looks back on it, he feels very good about what was accomplished.

The 2003 youth sports season had some tough times, solely because military parents were deployed to the Middle East to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The loss of parents meant the loss of coaches and it turned into a major crisis for Smith’s leagues.

“I think at the beginning, we had a hard time recruiting (replacement coaches),” said Smith, who was forced to fill close to 50 coaches’ shoes during the war and its buildup.

“But I think once the word got out, different units tried to help out. The School of Infantry really gave a lot of support to help (spouses) step up. At first, it was tough, but once they got settled, they did a great, great job.”

Smith says 2004 will be similar to 2003, because more deployments are scheduled for the upcoming year. Smith will once again be faced with the task of finding replacement coaches to guide youth teams in place of deployed regular coaches.

“We’re going to be affected again. We’re going to depend on those units to make a commitments to help spouses step up. We have to do a real good job recruiting (replacement coaches),” said Smith, who said many civilians volunteered in 2003; but unfortunately, they weren’t able to contribute because of security concerns, which limited unauthorized individuals from entering the base. That will again be the case in 2004, but Smith remains optimistic.

“It’s a big thing to be able to keep these kids busy while there parents are gone. ... It’s really important that we keep kids’ minds off the fact their moms and dads are gone. We don’t want the kids sitting around, being worried. We need to keep their minds busy.”

Even though it may be difficult to fill coaching positions, it won’t be difficult to fill up leagues with willing youngsters wishing to play ball. Smith said there was a 5 percent increase in 2003 from 2002, when more than 2,500 children participated in Camp Pendleton’s youth sports, which include soccer, basketball, baseball, cheerleading and track and field.

There are five camps scheduled for the summer 2004.

There will be three soccer camps, one per month,

from June through August. There will also be a baseball camp in June and a basketball camp in late July.

“We do the camps during summer, while the kids are out of school to help give them something to do while parents are at work,” Smith said. “We need them to have something to keep busy while they’re not in school.”

Looking back on 2003, Smith said the year’s biggest highlight was when several Los Angeles Dodgers players — including center fielder Dave Roberts and pitcher Odalis Perez — came to Camp Pendleton to give instructions at a baseball camp.

Also, Padres closer Trevor Hoffman made many fans by signing autographs during his appearance at Pendleton when the club announced the completion of the renovation of the Mountain Wire Area youth baseball field on base.

The new field will be used during the 2004 baseball season.

Smith, who is poised to run the youth basketball league, said the new sports year would kick off with soccer in March.

But this year’s basketball league won’t conclude until February 2004. He is excited about the basketball league’s final tournament, which will be held Feb. 7-13 at the new 11 Area Fieldhouse.

“We run a recreational program so the children can learn to play sports, and ... play on a team and to get along with other kids,” Smith said.

“It’s great fun for the children. It’s also great for the Marines to come out and watch their children play. ... We just try to keep everything positive, with the parents and their comments. Our main purpose is (to facilitate) fun for the kids.”

For more information, contact the Youth Sports Department at 725-4188.



Children ranging from ages 5 to 17 enjoy athletic competition in organized play here. The goal for the youth sports department is keeping children’s minds and bodies busy while they learn and grow.



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